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# INCIDENT RESOURCE ADVISOR TRAINING COURSE

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**Dates & Location:** The course will be held on April 26-28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Luray, VA near Shenandoah National Park.

**Description:** This course provides participants with the background to serve as Resource Advisors (READs) during wildland fires and other incidents. READs work with Incident Command Teams and fireline personnel to minimize the impacts of fire, fire management activities and post-fire conditions to natural and cultural resources. READs are also critical as the starting point for identifying needs related to the repair of fire suppression impacts, Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) and Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR).

Particular emphasis is given to the diverse roles and responsibilities of the READ, conveyed through a unique scenario-based training format. Among the topics addressed in the scenario include:

- Definition of the READ
- Federal wildland fire policy and the READ
- All Hazard response
- Incident pre-planning and the READ
- Roles and responsibilities of the Line vs. the Overhead READ, including initial attack, extended attack and large fire management
- The Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) and the READ
- Incident paperwork and the READ
- Relationships between the READ, Agency Representative (AREP) and line officer
- Resource ordering, dispatching and the READ
- Suppression damage repair, BAER, BAR and the READ
- Benefits of developing a programmatic approach to resource advising



In addition, course participants will become familiar with the mechanisms through which fire, operations and post-fire conditions can impact various resource classes (e.g., vegetation, wildlife, cultural resources, soils, wilderness), and tools available to the READ for avoiding, minimizing and mitigating those impacts. To this end, course participants are provided an extensive electronic resource advising library, organized by subject matter, containing policies, guidelines, technical publications, templates and forms.

There is no tuition to attend the course, but the home unit should absorb all travel costs.

**Target Audience:** Employees that currently serve or are interested in serving as READs during wildland fire incidents, including botanists, ecologists, biologists, hydrologists, geologists, foresters, GIS specialists and cultural resource specialists, as well as those who would like to learn more about what READs do and how fires and fire management activities can impact natural and cultural resources (fire managers have found the course useful in that regard). *Part of the class curriculum will focus on all hazard response and material will be integrated throughout the course.*

Maximum course size is 40 individuals.

**READ Qualifications:** READs are classified as Technical Specialists by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG, see page 24 at <http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/docs/pms310-1.pdf>). As such, NWCG has established no minimum qualifications for READs (i.e., there is no “task book” of required training and experience); instead, READ is a Fire Management Officer (FMO) designation. In other words, if your FMO or equivalent believes you are adequately qualified to serve as a READ during wildland fires, he or she can add it to your Incident Qualification Card (“Red Card”).

How does your FMO decide if you merit the READ qualification? While the NWCG has chosen not to establish set qualifications for READs, it did provide guidance in the *Resource Advisor's Guide for Wildland Fire*



([http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/RAGuide\\_2004.pdf](http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/RAGuide_2004.pdf)). The guide contains a recommended one-day READ training curriculum which one could take to obtain and/or maintain READ qualifications. This course covers those topics and more, and is endorsed by FMOs in the National Park Service as a means for getting the READ qualification on one's Incident Qualification Card. To our knowledge, this course has also proven adequate to meet READ training requirements in other federal and state agencies. You should consult with your FMO regarding any agency-specific requirements. Qualifications for specific technical specialist positions usually considered to be under the READ umbrella, such as archeologists (ARCH) and biologists (BIOL), are often dictated by the skills and abilities one possesses relative to federal law and agency policy (e.g., Secretary of Interior Qualification Standards); or, in simpler terms, what you do or have done during your "day job." This

confusing topic will be addressed in greater detail during the course.

Having READ on your Incident Qualification Card does not mean you can immediately head out to the next wildland fire, however (you knew it wouldn't be that simple). For example, many READs work on the fireline during incidents. In order to do so, each must meet minimum requirements found in Chapters 7 and 13 of the *Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations* (often referred to as the "Red Book," [http://www.nifc.gov/policies/red\\_book.htm](http://www.nifc.gov/policies/red_book.htm)). We will also explore this issue further during the course.

Importantly, as we hope to demonstrate, READs need not work on the fireline to make critical contributions towards the resource advising effort, such as interactions with Incident Management Teams, planning and data management. Those wishing to participate in that capacity (and that have an interest in taking off-unit assignments) do not need fireline qualifications, but usually must attend an annual one-day fireline safety refresher. Again, consult with your FMO for agency specifics.

**Prerequisites and Pre-Work:** There are no prerequisites to attend this course. Once selections have been made, a short pre-course assignment will be e-mailed to each course participant.

## The Instructors:



**Jun Kinoshita** is the fire archeologist and co-coordinator of the resource advisor program at Yosemite National Park in central California.

**Nelson Siefkin** is the BAER Coordinator, Resource Advisor Coordinator and fire archeologist for the National Park Service, Pacific West Region. He is based in central California.



**Rich Schwab** is the National BAER Coordinator for the National Park Service. He is based in Boise, Idaho.



**Applications:** Prospective students should complete the attached nomination form and return it via e-mail, fax or ground mail to Missy Forder at the contact information below. **All applications must be received by COB, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

Lodging and class will be held at The Mimslyn Inn, Luray Virginia. <http://www.mimslyninn.com>  
A block of rooms is held under Resource Advisor class.

Please contact Missy Forder with any questions, 540.999.3500 ext. 3323, [Melissa\\_Forder@nps.gov](mailto:Melissa_Forder@nps.gov)



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# NOMINATION FORM

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## Resource Advisor Training Shenandoah National Park April 26 – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Complete the attached form by hand or with Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader (save entries by selecting "Save As" from the File menu). Electronic signatures are perfectly acceptable.

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Affiliation:</b>	
<b>Position Title:</b>	
<b>Desk Phone:</b>	<b>Mobile Phone:</b>
<b>Fax:</b>	<b>E-Mail:</b>
<b>Briefly describe any previous experience in wildland fire and/or resource advising:</b>	
<b>Briefly explain the reason(s) why you would like to take this course:</b>	
<b>Applicant's Signature:</b>	
<b>Supervisor's Signature:</b>	

***Please return to Missy Forder by March 11th, 2011:***

*E-mail:* [melissa\\_forder@nps.gov](mailto:melissa_forder@nps.gov)

*Fax:* 540.999.3644

*Ground:* Missy Forder - SHEN Fire, 3655 US Highway 211 East, Luray, VA 22835